

What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 17, 2002

INDEPENDENT MONITOR RELEASES REPORT ON MPDC IMPLEMENTATION OF USE-OF-FORCE REFORMS

The MPDC's Compliance Monitoring Team is responsible for issuing its own progress reports on MOA implementation. Read the latest report at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/
FIT_progress_0402.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_0402.pdf)**

The Office of the Independent Monitor issued its first official report this past week, two months after its formation to monitor compliance with the landmark Memorandum of Agreement between the MPDC and the US Department of Justice on use-of-force issues and related matters. The MOA provides for the OIM to review and report on the implementation of a series of reforms in such areas as use-of-force policies, internal investigations, management and computer systems to ensure civil rights integrity, and training. The MOA was the result of a request

by Chief Ramsey in January 1999 for the Justice Department to conduct a wide-ranging review of use-of-force issues in the MPDC. The OIM's report acknowledges that the MPDC has made substantial progress since that time in implementing reforms that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in officer-involved shootings. Still, the report found that over the past year, the MPDC has missed most of the deadlines for specific tasks in the MOA, many of which were required to be completed last summer, within 30 or 60 days of the signing of the agreement. However, the report also observes that in recent months the MPDC has substantially reformed the way it is addressing compliance issues, including the creation of a Compliance Monitoring Team to coordinate MOA compliance efforts. You can access the entire, 84-page report from the OIM at:

www.policemonitor.org/specialreportjune12.pdf

Part of the MOA also requires the MPDC to inform residents about the process for the filing and investigation of citizen complaints of misconduct by officers. Detailed information about the citizen complaint process can be found at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/
citizencomplaints.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm)**

CRIME LEVELS DROP IN MAY

Driven by decreases in sexual assault, aggravated assault, burglary and theft, the number of reported crimes in the District declined by 5 percent in May, according to preliminary statistics released by the MPDC. Compared with May 2001, the number of reported sexual assaults declined from 36 to 13, while aggravated assault reports decreased nearly 14 percent for the month. Among other crimes, homicides more than tripled for the month, from 8 in May 2001 (a record low for the month) to 25 in May 2002.

There were slight increases in robberies, thefts from auto and stolen autos for the month. Through the first five

months of the year, overall crime in DC is essentially unchanged, according to the preliminary data. Six of the nine crime categories are down for the year, including nearly 30 percent reductions in sexual assault and arson offenses. Homicides and burglaries have increased sharply so far this year. Get preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole by going to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

*Auto theft is up 7 percent so far this year. You can help combat this crime by registering your vehicle in the **Watch Your Car** program. Get information, including an on-line registration form, at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/
wyc.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm)**

With the sharp increase in homicides this year, the MPDC reminds residents that the Department currently offers a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any open homicide case in DC. View some of DC's Most Wanted at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/
mostwanted/mostwanted.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/mostwanted.shtm)**

2D OFFICERS WHO CAUGHT ARMED ROBBERS AMONG JUNE "CHAMPS" AWARD WINNERS

Officers Gregory Frost and Matthew Rock were on separate patrols in 2D last January when each heard a radio assignment for a robbery in progress at a CVS store in the 2000 block of M Street, NW. Officer Rock sped to the scene and arrived in time to see three suspects fleeing the scene. The suspects ignored the officer's order to stop. Officer Frost was coming from the other direction on M Street and attempted to use his vehicle to block two suspects from getting away. When the suspects decided to vault over the police cruiser, they dropped a bag of money and a handgun. Officers Rock and Frost chased the suspects on foot and apprehended one of them; a second suspect was taken into custody by other 2D units that responded. Their teamwork in taking two armed and dangerous offenders off the streets earned Officers Rock and Frost the Departmental Officers of the Month award at the June CHAMPS ceremony. You can read more about these two officers, as well as the heroic actions of other award winners, at:

CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is an incentive award program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community. This month's ceremony was held June 5 at the Wyndham Washington hotel.

mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/06.htm

AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS BEWARE: WAVE II OF SMOOTH OPERATOR BEGINS

The latest statistics from the District's red-light camera program show a 62 percent reduction in violations at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras. Nearly 305,000 notices of infraction have been mailed since the program started in August 1999.

Read more at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm

The MPDC has teamed up with 55 other law enforcement agencies from the District, Maryland and Virginia as part of this year's Smooth Operator program against aggressive driving. The second of four intensive, one-week enforcement "waves" runs from June 16-22. During that period, MPDC officers will be paying special attention to such aggressive driving offenses as speeding, improper passing, unsafe lane changes, disobeying traffic signals and signs, failing to yield the right-of-way and tailgating. DC's red-light and photo radar enforcement cameras will also be in full

swing throughout this enforcement wave. During the first Smooth Operator wave in May, MPDC officers issued 3,223 citations for various aggressive driving offenses, and another 5,538 motorists received automated enforcement tickets for speeding and running red lights. Learn more about Smooth Operator at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV